

status quo, leaves open the floodgates of special interest PAC money and increases the amounts that the wealthy can give. This is not reform, it is a fraud.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today Speaker GINGRICH has an opportunity to do something truly positive for the American people, to save a dying effort for real reform. Basically the Republican bill puts more money into the system, the Democratic bill favors less money in politics. The two bills are miles apart and dead on arrival. The only way to revive campaign finance in the Senate and to pass a viable bill here in the House is to create an independent strong commission that will come forward with a principal plan for an up-or-down vote.

Madam Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH and the President shook hands on it and publicly endorsed the concept. An independent commission is reform's only chance in this Congress. Madam Speaker, only Speaker GINGRICH can make it happen.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, American working men and women need the Working Families Flexibility Act. Federal labor laws mandate that overtime compensation must be in the form of cash wages, even if the employee would prefer to have paid off or comp time.

The time has come to update these antiquated laws to reflect the evolving needs of today's working families. For some employees, in today's hectic pace, time off is more valuable than money. For working moms, dads, and single parents, time off allows them to better balance the often competing demands of work and family.

Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle claim that this is an attempt to weaken overtime protections in the law for employees. This is simply not true. The truth is that the Working Families Flexibility Act will give private sector employees the same options and flexibility which public sector employees have had for years. Let's change the law to accommodate the needs of today's workers who want more options and greater control over their working schedules. Support the Working Families Flexibility Act.

WHAT IS MISSING FROM OUR SCHOOLS IS PRAYER

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, something does not add up. Congress continues to spend more money on crime and cops, more money on jails and prisons, pumps money into schools wherever possible, but you can still find drugs in our schools, guns and violence in our schools. There are even condoms in our schools, God forbid, rape, and even cases of murder in our schools.

About the only thing you cannot find in our school today is prayer. Even though "in God we trust" is written over all our buildings and on all our currency, about the only time you can hear God's name in school is when God's name is taken in vain. Shame, Congress. Shame. A nation and a Congress that will keep God out just may have invited the Devil. Think about that one.

IT IS TIME FOR OUR PRESIDENT TO SIGN COMMONSENSE WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, the current welfare system cannot be defended. It is a system characterized by dependence, illegitimacy, and family breakdown.

Tuesday, the other Chamber, with a strong bipartisan vote, approved commonsense reforms that will stop welfare from becoming a way of life. These reforms honor work and encourage personal responsibility.

Bill Clinton campaigned on a promise to "end welfare as we know it." It is now the fourth year of his Presidency and so far, he has done nothing but stand in the way of welfare reform. He postures. He poses. He talks tough, but he never comes through.

Madam Speaker, it is time for Bill Clinton to lead. It is time for him to keep at least one of the promises he made during his campaign. It is time for Bill Clinton to get with the program and sign commonsense welfare reform.

EDUCATION

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, last week Bob Dole gave an education speech in Minneapolis during which he said that public schools are being driven into the ground by bureaucrats and teachers.

First of all, if Bob Dole wants to know what is going on in public schools he ought to visit a few—and talk to parents and teachers who are struggling to help students become knowledgeable and productive citizens in tomorrow's world.

I would like to suggest that he visit Pontiac Central High School where

this year a team of corporate engineers, students, and teachers designed and built an innovative robot that won first place in a nationwide competition of 73 teams. If Bob Dole were to visit a school like Pontiac Central High he might not see just problems, he might see what the teachers and the scientific and engineering community of Pontiac see—children with promise.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Dole should use his campaign to encourage public schools as they strive for excellence and innovation. He should join with the leaders of business and industry who are calling for a renewed commitment to public schools. Above all, he should not squander that opportunity by condemning the legacy of public education and demonizing those people who commit themselves to educating children in a pluralistic society—our Nation's classroom teachers.

PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE WANT AND SIGN WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, this week Congress has taken bold steps toward enacting genuine welfare reform. The next step will be President Clinton's. We will send him real work requirements, real time limits. We will end welfare for noncitizens. Our bill will lift 1.3 million people out of welfare and into jobs by 2002, and we will end the process whereby able-bodied recipients stay on welfare for 13 years.

Many in Congress would say that welfare reform is cruel to children. Absolute nonsense. Nothing could be more cruel than to leave today's children in yesterday's welfare system. The goal of any true welfare reform is to lift children and families out of poverty and despair. If America is to prosper in the next century, we must reform welfare so that it honors work and encourages people's responsibility.

Mr. President, the American people want you to sign this welfare reform bill. Please, Mr. President, listen to the people.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Madam Speaker, today our prayer was about doing justice and loving mercy and today our legislative agenda is about descending these steps collecting more and more money from special interest groups. We have failed at campaign finance reform and we have failed miserably. This is not what the American people want. Common Cause points out that anybody who votes for this is going to be going along with having the richest people in America having even more influence and the average people having even less. Is that justice, coming